



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VALLEY PAIR INDICTED FOR FRAUD

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on July 9, 2002, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a 10 count indictment for Mail Fraud against JASON TERRY PRICE, DOB 4/2/69, and ELIZABETH RUTH MCGUIRE, DOB 4/18/81, both having last known addresses in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The indictment alleges that from late 1998 through late 2000, PRICE and others operated a business known as Nationwide Commodities, which ran advertisements in periodicals across the United States offering people the opportunity to earn more than \$1000 per week working from home. The advertisements and other solicitation material represented that Nationwide Commodities had numerous direct mail advertising clients who were in need of home workers to stuff their mailers, and that through Nationwide the home worker would have unlimited mailer envelopes to stuff, earning between \$3.00 and \$3.50 per envelope. Nationwide required prospective home workers to mail a "registration fee" of between \$18.00 and \$36.00 to purchase Nationwide's "home mailer program," which would explain how the home worker would receive and process the advertisements and envelopes to be stuffed, and earn their money. Over the course of this fraud, several thousand victims purchased the "home mailer program," only to learn that Nationwide had no advertising clients and no envelopes to send them for processing.

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The Indictment further alleges that from late 1999 through late 2000, PRICE and MCGUIRE set up and operated two additional companies—Apex Materials and Venture Products—through which they ran schemes nearly identical to the Nationwide bait and switch solicitation, with the same results.

The federal indictment charges PRICE and MCGUIRE with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1341, the Mail Fraud statute.

A conviction for Mail Fraud carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service.

The prosecution is being handled by John J. Tuchi, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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